

The departmental review reconvened on April 15, 2010 at 11:46 a.m., and proceeded as follows:

(All seven members were noted present.)

PLANNING DEPARTMENT:

DARYL KANESHIRO: Budget review process now called back to order. At this time we have the Planning Department, Mr. Ian Costa, and all three of you are up here.

IAN COSTA, PLANNING DIRECTOR: It's still morning so Aloha Kakahiaka Council members.

Mr. Kaneshiro: Good morning.

Ian Costa, Planning Director for the record and with me is Imai Aiu, Deputy Planning Director and Myles Hironaka, our long range Planner extraordinaire. Hopefully you all got handed out our Budget Summary and I would like to just cover that. At the very top we do have an overview and I will take the time briefly to just read our overview. In order to meet the initial administrative budget preparation guidelines in other words or a seven percent reduction in the 2010 budget the planning department reduced its proposed 2010 - 2011 budget by Hundred sixty nine thousand from the current level of funding. An additional reduction of hundred and nineteen thousand is proposed to address the furlough program lowering the total budget by thirteen percent, for a total of Two hundred eighty nine thousand, two hundred ten dollars as compared to the 2009-2010 Planning Department Budget. Non furlough budget cuts are based on reduced salaries, reduced fringe benefits costs, reductions in travel and special research. Despite the overall cuts the UHC Grant Program is being retained at a funding level of ninety seven thousand nine hundred and fifty eight dollars. Immediately after that overview we have our responses at least to the initial three questions that council had opposed to everyone. The first being a list of all new positions or changes to any existing positions indicating contractual or civil service salary and division. We are not proposing any new positions at this time or any changes to existing positions. Number two a list of current or anticipated vacant civil service and contractual positions. Duration of vacancies and expected date of filing, these positions so we list seven currently vacant positions and two anticipated vacancies in the very near future. The Planning Department is in the process of working with the Department of Personnel Services to advertise and or fill via internal movement on all vacant funded positions as soon as possible as such we plan to advertise for a range of planner positions which includes planner 1 through planner 7 level positions. Number three a list of contractual positions funded by the State or Federal grants and the contract period. We have three grants or funds, the first being coastal zone management program, this is a continuous grant program based on the State, County fiscal period and has been ongoing since the mid 1970's. It is One hundred percent State and federally funded and provides funding for four of our positions to implement the CZM, SMA and shoreline set back policies. Our proposed budget request to the grantor is Two hundred eighty seven thousand, seven hundred twenty one dollars and we do have an attachment that breaks that down. Our second grant is a certified local government program which is the funding we use for our Historic preservation program and the Kaua'i Historic Preservation Commission.

JAY FURFARO: Excuse me which position was that?

Mr. Costa: The CLG or the certified local government program. It just supports some of our projects as well as the Kaua'i Historic Preservation Commission, we do not have a Historic Planner position. This program does not entail any positions and has been ongoing since the late 1980's because the federal program passed through the State Department of Land and Natural Resources and from time to time provides funds approximately Fifty thousand for preservation projects. In consultation with the Kaua'i Historic preservation review commission, SHP (State

Historic Preservation Division and the national park service. Projects that have been under consideration include updating the counties historic resource listing and preparing nominations forms for the state or national historic register conditional evaluations for selected sites and expanding the preservation website and training and reference resource materials. The last of these grants or funds is the open space public access program. In 2002 the charter was amended by creating a public access open space and natural resources preservation fund which receives a minimum of half a percent of certified real property tax each year. Ordinance number 812 was subsequently passed which established a new commission and provided that five percent of the fund could be used for administrative cost estimated at Nineteen thousand and eighty five dollars and we have an attachment for that proposed budget as well. As in previous years approval of these programs are requested to continue, County participation in these grants program and or programs and to expand such funds to fulfill the objectives and purposes as set forth in each of the grant programs. That pretty much concludes our overview anyway and we can respond to any questions you have.

Mr. Kaneshiro: Okay with that Councilmember Furfaro.

Mr. Furfaro: Thank you. In the staffing area you anticipated vacancies with the salaries we got today in our memorandum here, even though you show these retirement dates may I assume that these positions in the way of dollars are reflected through your whole budget.

Mr. Costa: Yes.

Mr. Furfaro: Okay. So for the purpose of continuity with these retirements in June and May you do plan to fill them and they are reflected as being fully funded for the year?

Mr. Costa: That's correct.

Mr. Furfaro: For one dollar funded positions, are there any of those positions that have been vacant or will be vacant for the third proposed year? In other words, does your budget reflect these vacant positions that this will be the third year that they are vacant?

Mr. Costa: Yes.

Mr. Furfaro: Could you tell me which ones they are. That means we are currently functioning without them.

Mr. Costa: I believe those would be the first three. The two Project Managers and the Planner five position.

Mr. Furfaro: Have we been soliciting for those positions in the last three years?

Mr. Costa: Yes we have. The dollar funded Project Manager position, those are tied to the development plans so we have not recruited for those separately up to this point.

Mr. Furfaro: What do you mean by development plan? You mean the Community development plan?

Mr. Costa: Yes and those are specifically tied, I believe to the Līhu'e Development Plan as well as the Kōloa so we have not recruited for any of those at least for the current projects that we have been working on.

Mr. Furfaro: On those I will just send over a question asking for those vacant positions if they were implemented and tied to specific community plans. What would be the dollar value associated with that? I will send it over in a question. On the open space program, your narrative indicates well first of all the Nineteen thousand eighty five, is that the half percent of the projected floating tax revenue?

Mr. Costa: I believe that's five percent of the anticipated tax revenue.

Mr. Furfaro: So we're anticipating at least Three hundred and eighty one thousand dollars being earmarked for the fund?

Mr. Costa: Correct.

Mr. Furfaro: The nineteen thousand in the narrative, it could be used for administrative cost. I want to tell you that the funding of the full time planning position came two years ago with myself and Council women Yukimura, specifically that we understood that the nineteen thousand eighty five should be used specifically to help administrative cost for the commission. We had a presentation from them yesterday and we were asking what work has been done from the county attorney and or appraisal on the proposed lands that they identify on the west side at Salt Pond. When I said to them, have we launched an appraisal for the next targeted item I certainly feel that we need to do it. That money is available to them to ask the county attorney to solicit an appraisal and I think we also need to know that when we go to acquire community lands I think it's subject to the county engineer to revisit the items especially the access site to make sure it's safe access and so forth and they may need to be some money to do some research on that. That is what that money is intended for, it said it could be used for but it should be used for and I just wanted to say what I believe that intent was. And just out of curiosity and I wanted to thank your department for giving me the schedule early on for this year that targets some completion dates for things like the CZO, Community Plans and so forth. We did have to visit some additional money recently, may I assume in your forecast the rest of this year that we are good on money for that eight completion dates that you concurred on? Do you foresee us coming back at this point in time for any additional money to complete those tasks?

Mr. Costa: No.

Mr. Furfaro: No, okay Thank you and I will send over that question on the three vacant positions.

Mr. Kaneshiro: Okay, Chairman Asing.

KAIPO ASING: I have a follow up question on both the Project Managers. Are you saying then that if you do not do the community development program, then you don't need the project manager? It was just tied into that.

Mr. Costa: Yes.

Mr. Asing: So you don't do the project? You don't need it anyway?

Mr. Costa: That's correct. Those were specifically tied to help manage those projects.

Mr. Asing: Specific to those plans?

Mr. Costa: Yes.

Mr. Asing: Okay thank you. I just wanted to get that clarified and thank you Councilmember Furfaro for asking the question.

Mr. Furfaro: I wanted to say that if they trigger those plans I want to know the cost of those positions.

Mr. Kaneshiro: Right and we will be sending over a request in that regards for this project manager and to what plans and so forth.

Mr. Costa: Okay.

Mr. Kaneshiro: As Mr. Furfaro said. So we will have follow up questions for you.

Mr. Costa: Okay.

Mr. Kaneshiro: Mr. Bynum.

TIM BYNUM: Okay so just so I understand, the two anticipated vacancies are the two planners that we recently are leaving?

Mr. Costa: Yes.

Mr. Bynum: So in addition to that there's a planner seven? So there are two planner seven positions? One that's retiring in June, and one that is funded for nine months. Those are two different positions?

Mr. Costa: Yes but the planner funded the vacant position reflects up the retirement of our long time planner Ricky Tsuchiya.

Mr. Bynum: I'm sorry.

Mr. Costa: Ricky Tsuchiya.

Mr. Bynum: Oh.

Mr. Costa: And then the anticipated planner is Bryan Mamaclay.

Mr. Bynum: And I thought they were out of here already.

Mr. Costa: No Bryan is still with us.

Mr. Bynum: And so the one that's funded for nine months is Ricky?

Mr. Costa: Yes.

Mr. Bynum: Is he back on contract?

Mr. Costa: His contract just ended and he is kicking and screaming and refusing to get another contract. But he still is assisting us if you will.

Mr. Bynum: So that will be a challenge for this year some real quality institutional memory.

Mr. Costa: Yes it's a critical position for us. He serves a personnel manager, fiscal officer and he also manages the three commissions we have in addition to our grant.

Mr. Bynum: Those are big shoes.

Mr. Costa: Yes.

Mr. Bynum: So good luck with that.

Mr. Costa: Thank you.

Mr. Bynum: Hopefully you won't have any other people go miles earn. Also I'm very pleased that you are maintaining the sea grant position even though the individual has recently gone.

Mr. Costa: Yes. Jim has essentially left and we have spoken to the sea grant program and they will diligently fill his position, but we anticipate that it would be vacant for probably two to three months hopefully not longer. They have committed the assistance of the other sea grant agents. They have one on Maui, one in Honolulu so they have been put on notice to assist us when we need it I guess.

Mr. Bynum: And in that department you have experienced it as being a positive asset for the department?

Mr. Costa: Yes, particularly with bridging and working with some of our other agencies in making sure that generally other agencies are at least informed on coastal processes and issues but also help guide them in getting permits before they do something.

Mr. Bynum: I really appreciate the individuals that work in the community and bridging that.

Mr. Costa: Yeah and that's what that position was meant to do as a grant position.

Mr. Bynum: So it really has worked well and hopefully we will get an individual as dynamic as Jim.

Mr. Costa: Yeah particularly that position has worked closely and supported the Department of Parks and Public works.

Mr. Bynum: My recollection is it was kind of a council initiative to get that going with Shaylene and Jay. I think that really pressed that and I'm pleased it really worked out well.

Mr. Costa: It helps keep our relationship with the University of Hawai'i as well as a partner.

Mr. Bynum: The individuals that are doing enforcements are all of those positions currently filled?

Mr. Costa: Well we had one of our inspectors, planning inspectors move over to the TVR inspector position. I believe that we had a trainer and I think he was hired probably six or eight months ago but there is no vacant position.

Mr. Bynum: Thank you.

Mr. Kaneshiro: Any other questions for the Planning Department by Committee Members? Okay no more questions. You have the floor Mr. Furfaro.

Mr. Furfaro: I just want to say how very pleased I am Mr. Costa with your selection of Myles and your team of three that we now have in place for the long term and the concept associated with someone keeping an eye on the future potential projects its impact as how it relates to infrastructure funding and so forth. The two ladies aren't here today but please I just want to say how very pleased I am. I also want to say how very sad I am about Jim's departure, I think in the short time he was here he made some very very valuable contributions, and I want to say in advance between you and your Deputy you know we can't lose focus on some of those issues dealing with shoreline and erosion. I know you are up for the task and I just want to make a comment on those two items.

Mr. Costa: Before Jim left one of the things he has helped us on was to take that recently completed coastal erosion study and to prepare our draft ordinance amendment which we will be bringing to you shortly.

Mr. Furfaro: Well thank you very much gentlemen.

Mr. Asing: I have a quick follow up question.

Mr. Kaneshiro: Go ahead Chair.

Mr. Asing: On that study Ian, is it completely done and so it's fully implemented? When I say implemented I'm saying that the charts and everything is all done.

Mr. Costa: We have all the data and the maps. We just need to get those adopted through an ordinance amendment to the shoreline set back ordinance.

Mr. Asing: Oaky good thank you.

Lani Kawahara: I have a question.

Mr. Kaneshiro: Go ahead Councilmember Kawahara.

Ms. Kawahara: I just wanted some clarification if I could please. On page 59 "Special Council" is that just a shift because of the work that our own county attorney is doing and it goes into his budget? Any cost for "Special Council"?

Mr. Costa: You mean the reduction?

Ms. Kawahara: Yeah from almost half a million to zero yeah for the year to date it was half a million and now its zero requests. I'm just curious as to how that works.

Mr. Costa: It varies from some degree but very little and that is some funding that we have always put it in our budget for special circumstances or special hearings or hiring of hearing officers and alike. We had to basically look at cutting wherever we could to meet the seven percent and so should we would need to come to council honestly as we should there be cases that we would need to go out and secure special council. And again that is special council in respect to any special hearings that we may have. We recently over the last year have a hearings officer for the one boat yard in Hanalei and have been lucky to have the attorneys we have and the willingness of the commission to work through the vacation rental appeals, as of this budget proposals we are not budgeting for special council and would need to address that as needed. It's very difficult to anticipate what that cost would be.

Ms. Kawahara: Right, it's just kind of glaring yeah because we know we spent Four hundred thirty seven thousand last year and.....

Mr. Costa: Last year was more than I have ever seen spent.

Ms. Kawahara: Yeah and now it's not in your budget at all but we're going to need to deal with it as it comes up so that money is going to come from somewhere.

Mr. Costa: That's right.

Ms. Kawahara: It's just not going to be reflected in this budget total for your department.

Mr. Costa: That's right. So I mean that just shows I guess how lean our budget really is as it comes down to positions now.

Ms. Kawahara: Yeah okay, that's something I will keep in mind thank you.

Mr. Kaneshiro: Any other questions for the planning department regarding this budget review. If not thank you very much Mr. Costa, Imai, and Myles.

Mr. Costa: We will respond to any questions you have.

Mr. Kaneshiro: We will forward any questions if the committee members come up as we move along through this process for your department.

Mr. Costa: Thank you.

Mr. Kaneshiro: With that before recess in this meeting I want to announce to you that tomorrow we will start with Parks and Recreation Department and also with the Department of Public Works and again those are two large departments, so if I can inquire with our staff if we had handouts passed out earlier and if we didn't possibly we will have some tomorrow before we begin our session. We are in recess until 9:00 tomorrow morning, that's it.

The Planning Department departmental budget review concluded at 12:12 p.m., and there being no objections, the meeting was in recess.